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THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE'S CONQUEST ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL LIFE OF THE CITIES OF THE BUKHARA EMIRATE (SECOND HALF OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY – EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY)

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes, through a historical-comparative approach, the policy of conquest pursued by the Russian Empire toward the Bukhara Emirate in the second half of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century, and its impact on the socio-economic and cultural life of the emirate's cities. The main areas of inquiry include the military and political events of 1866–1868, the relations of dependency that emerged after 1868, the redirection of foreign trade, growing demand for raw cotton, and the adaptation of the traditional urban economy to new market conditions. Cities in the southern territories, including Qarshi, Shahrisabz, Kitab, G'uzor, Boysun, Sherobod, and Denov, are examined in relation to broader political and economic processes. The article proposes interpreting the negative consequences of the conquest in terms of the restriction of political sovereignty, the growing risk of economic dependency, and the increasing influence of external factors on traditional local social relations. It also emphasizes the need to substantiate these conclusions more thoroughly through archival documents, local historical works, and periodical materials.

KEYWORDS

Bukhara Emirate, Russian Empire, conquest, protectorate, colonial policy, southern cities, Qarshi, Shahrisabz, Kitab, trade, cotton cultivation, handicrafts, urban economy, historical sources.

Introduction

The second half of the nineteenth century was a period of fundamental change in Central Asian political independence, territorial administration, and systems of economic relations. The Russian Empire's military and political expansion into the region affected the foreign-policy standing and internal development trajectories of local states. This process marked a major turning point in the history of the Bukhara Emirate as well, restricting its political independence and leading to a new form of relations with the Russian Empire.

In the nineteenth century, the Bukhara Emirate was one of the major political, economic, and cultural centres of Central Asia. Its cities functioned as key centres of administrative governance, trade, handicrafts, religious education, and cultural life. Cities were not merely settlements where people lived; they were also complex economic and cultural spaces in which agricultural products were exchanged, caravan routes converged, and different social groups interacted.

As a result of the Russian Empire's military campaigns, the political and economic conditions of this historical space began to change. The military clashes of 1866 and the defeat of Bukhara's forces in 1868 directly affected the emirate's subsequent development. Although the Bukhara Emirate formally retained its ruler and internal administrative structure, its independence in foreign affairs was sharply curtailed. Thus, a politically unequal system of relations developed between the emirate and the Russian Empire.

A. M. Malikov analyzes the Russian–Bukhara war from military and diplomatic perspectives, drawing attention to the differing interpretations by the two sides of the peace treaty and political agreements [1]. A. Morrison has examined the Russian Empire's territorial expansion in Central Asia on a broad scale, focusing on military campaigns, diplomatic relations, and imperial administration [2]. These studies provide an important scholarly basis for examining the dependent status of the Bukhara Emirate in the context of the empire's broader regional policy.

The relevance of this topic lies in the fact that the consequences of the Russian Empire's conquest cannot be reduced to military and political events alone. It is also necessary to study the impact of political dependency on urban administration, trade routes, handicrafts, local production, and cultural life. In particular, it is of considerable scholarly importance to analyze the history of southern cities of the Bukhara Emirate—such as Qarshi, Shahrisabz, Kitab, G'uzor, Boysun, Sherobod, and Denov—in relation to broader political processes.

Material and methods.

The aim of this study is to identify, on the basis of historical sources and scholarly literature, the aspects of the Russian Empire's policy toward the Bukhara Emirate in the second half of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century that negatively affected the socio-economic and cultural life of its cities.

To achieve this aim, the following objectives have been set:

1. To analyze the process through which the Bukhara Emirate became politically dependent on the Russian Empire.
2. To identify the impact of political dependency on urban administration and foreign economic relations.
3. To examine changes in trade relations, cotton cultivation, and handicrafts.
4. To distinguish common and specific features in the development of cities in the southern territories.
5. To assess the impact of the conquest on social and cultural life and identify important source groups for future archival research.

The article employs the principles of historicism, objectivity, comparative-historical analysis, and a systematic approach. Political events are considered in connection with economic and social processes. Particular attention is paid to distinguishing general regional conclusions from evidence relating to individual cities.

The source base can be divided into three groups: first, documents concerning the Russian Empire's military campaigns and diplomatic relations with Bukhara; second, works by local historians and written sources from the period; and third, statistical materials, trade reports, travel accounts, and periodical publications. This article analyzes available scholarly literature and open bibliographic information. Work with specific archival documents at the next stage will require verification of document numbers, dates, and folio references.

In the 1860s, the Russian Empire intensified its military campaigns in Central Asia. The capture of Tashkent in 1865, military operations in 1866, and clashes in 1868 altered the balance of political

power in the region. The defeat of the forces of the Emir of Bukhara, Muzaffar, restricted the emirate's foreign-policy options and created a new context for its relations with Russia [1; 2].

After 1868, the Bukhara Emirate formally continued to exist as a state ruled by an independent sovereign, but its freedom in international relations was limited. It is therefore inaccurate to equate the emirate's political status directly with that of the Turkestan provinces incorporated into the Russian Empire. The local ruler and internal administrative structures remained in place in Bukhara, although relations with the empire were marked by political and economic inequality.

This distinction is methodologically important for the study of urban history. Cities within the emirate did not operate under the same administrative and legal conditions as cities within the Governor-Generalship of Turkestan. Consequently, the experience of territories under direct Russian imperial administration cannot be transferred wholesale to the cities of the Bukhara Emirate.

Nevertheless, the emirate's external political dependency altered factors affecting urban economic development. Trade routes, customs and treaty-related arrangements, raw-material exports, and the development of transport links became increasingly connected to the needs of the imperial market.

The principal negative political consequence of the conquest was the restriction of the local state's ability to make independent foreign-policy decisions. As a result, external political factors gained greater influence over the economic and social development of the emirate's cities, alongside local needs.

Discussion and results

The cities of the Bukhara Emirate had long been important links in the interregional trade system. Local markets facilitated the exchange of agricultural and livestock products, textiles, and handicrafts. Trade with other regions along caravan routes also sustained urban economic life.

The development of trade relations with the Russian Empire brought new opportunities to the economy of the Bukhara Emirate, but it also introduced new sources of dependency. Growing demand in external markets encouraged the production and sale of certain goods on a larger scale. At the same time, producers' incomes became increasingly dependent on external market conditions, commercial intermediaries, and transport costs.

R. Yu. Pochekaev's study of the position of the Bukhara Emirate and the Khanate of Khiva in the Russian cotton market examines relations between two legal systems—Russian legal norms and local customary law—within trade relations during the protectorate period [3]. The author considers both the attempts of the Russian administration and merchants to extend their legal principles and the interests of local merchants in preserving their existing economic position.

This shows that economic dependency cannot be portrayed as a wholly one-sided or absolute process. Although the emirate had been politically weakened, local merchants and producers sought to protect their interests. At the same time, the imbalance of political power meant that the parties did not have equal capacity to determine the terms of trade.

As the Russian industry's need for raw materials increased, cotton cultivation became more economically important in Central Asia. Under these conditions, cotton growing became a source of income for some households; however, the expansion of export-oriented production could also make local economies dependent on external market demand.

The expansion of cotton cultivation could affect the area devoted to food crops, the use of water resources, the division of labour, and household incomes. However, determining the extent to which

these effects were manifested in the southern territories of the Bukhara Emirate requires a comparison of data on cultivated areas, yields, prices, trade volumes, and local taxation.

From this perspective, it is insufficient to assess the economic consequences of the conquest solely by measuring increases or decreases in foreign trade. Alongside the expansion of trade, it is necessary to consider how economic benefits were distributed, how much influence local producers had over market conditions, and how dependent local economies became on external demand.

Handicrafts occupied a distinct place in the economy of the cities of the Bukhara Emirate. Textile production, pottery, metalworking, jewellery making, leatherworking, and other occupations supplied local markets. Craft industries formed an important part of the economic relationships connecting merchants, raw-material suppliers, and consumers.

The entry of goods manufactured by Russian industry into regional markets created new competitive conditions for local artisans. Certain industrial products could compete with handmade goods in terms of price and production volume. As a result, some local producers may have been compelled to change their product range, production methods, or trading routes.

However, this process cannot be assessed uniformly across all craft industries. Local demand, product quality, price, traditional consumer culture, and the condition of trade networks allowed some crafts to survive. Therefore, claims that handicrafts declined should be tested separately for specific products, cities, and periods.

The city of Qarshi provides an important case for studying these issues. As one of the major administrative and economic centres in the southern territories of the Bukhara Emirate, Qarshi relied on its markets, handicraft activity, and links with agricultural areas. J. Eshtemirov's article on the history of Qarshi is among the scholarly works useful for examining the city's political, economic, and cultural life [4].

To assess the state of local handicrafts in Qarshi, it is necessary to compare information about goods sold in markets, merchant activity, sources of raw materials, and foreign trade. Such an analysis can help establish which industries benefited from the expansion of external economic relations and which faced increased competitive pressure.

It is therefore useful to distinguish two aspects when assessing the Russian Empire's economic influence: first, the expansion of trade relations and the emergence of new markets; and second, the growing dependence of local producers on external market requirements and competition from industrial goods. The second aspect should be regarded as one of the principal mechanisms through which economic dependency could adversely affect the local economy.

Qarshi, Shahrisabz, Kitab, G'uzor, Boysun, Sherobod, and Denov, located in the southern territories of the Bukhara Emirate, differed in their economic and geographical locations, administrative status, and local economic characteristics. It would therefore be methodologically incorrect to portray the consequences of Russian imperial policy as an identical process in all these cities.

Local political forces, relations with the Emir of Bukhara, and Russian imperial military intervention played important roles in the histories of Shahrisabz and Kitab. A. Morrison's study is an important source for analyzing the Russian Empire's war with Bukhara and the region's military and political processes [2]. These events affected the balance of power among local authorities and the political conditions of territorial administration.

Research into the consequences of the conquest in Shahrisabz and Kitab should not be limited to recording military clashes. It is also necessary to identify changes in local administration, land and

water relations, trade routes, and the economic activities of urban residents. Comparing local historical works, the emirate's administrative correspondence, and reports by representatives of the Russian Empire is particularly important for this purpose.

As one of the administrative and commercial centres of the southern territories, Qarshi was distinguished by its local markets, handicrafts, and exchange of agricultural products. Studying the city's economic activity makes it possible to identify the relationship between external trade and the local economy. Information about trade turnover, product types, craft industries, and the occupational composition of the population may provide important evidence.

In studying the histories of G'uzor, Boysun, Sherobod, and Denov, attention should be paid to local trade routes, economic relations associated with farming and livestock breeding, administrative governance, and population mobility. Specific evidence for each city and its surrounding villages is needed to determine how the Russian Empire's policies affected these areas directly and indirectly.

Source studies relating to the history of the southern territories are an important line of research in this regard. U. Xudoyberdiyev's study of sources on the history of Eastern Bukhara examines works by local historians and written sources relating to the eastern territories of the emirate [5]. Such studies demonstrate the need to compare local historical works with reports written by representatives of the Russian Empire.

Thus, the main approach to studying the consequences of the conquest in the cities of the southern territories is to connect broader historical processes with local evidence. This approach makes it possible to explain more precisely the impact of political dependency on urban development while taking account of the economic and cultural characteristics of individual areas.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the development of transport and communication networks in Central Asia affected the region's economic relations. Railways and other means of transport made it possible to move goods over long distances, accelerate trade, and strengthen some regions' connections with external markets.

However, assessing the development of transport infrastructure solely as an indicator of economic progress would be one-sided. Under colonial conditions, transport routes were also connected with military and strategic objectives, the movement of raw materials, and the needs of the imperial market. Therefore, evaluating the impact of transport networks requires identifying the areas they served, the goods they carried, and the opportunities they created for local producers.

This analysis is particularly important for the southern cities of the Bukhara Emirate. Changes in transport routes could increase the importance of certain commercial centres while altering the position of other areas along traditional caravan routes. Such conclusions, however, must be supported by evidence concerning specific routes, dates, trade volumes, and local markets.

Alongside the expansion of transport and trade links, local producers may also have become more dependent on external prices and the activities of intermediaries. Thus, assessing the consequences of economic integration requires examining not only expanded transport capacity but also how economic benefits and costs were distributed among different groups in local society.

The cities of the Bukhara Emirate had a complex social and cultural system centred on mosques, madrasas, schools, neighbourhoods, markets, and craft workshops. These institutions played important roles in religious education, social interaction, vocational training, and the preservation of cultural traditions.

Changes in political and economic relations with the Russian Empire may have indirectly affected urban social life. For example, changes in external trading conditions may have influenced the incomes of some merchants and artisans. The adaptation of local economies to external market demand may also have brought changes in the division of labour and the economic activities of the population.

Such possibilities, however, should not be confused with established historical facts. To identify changes in the cultural life of cities, it is necessary to study the activities of educational institutions, waqf documents, local historical works, travel accounts, and periodical publications. Information about the operation of madrasas and schools, neighbourhood governance, the income sources of religious institutions, and the intergenerational continuity of craft occupations is particularly important.

Indicators such as taxation and obligations, population migration, living standards, occupational composition, and local administration are especially significant in the study of social consequences. Comparing such information across cities in the southern territories would make it possible to define more precisely the effects of political and economic changes on everyday life.

From this perspective, rather than generalizing the cultural consequences of the Russian Empire's conquest as the complete decline of local culture, it is more appropriate to examine separately how political dependency and economic change affected cultural institutions. This approach preserves the complexity of the historical process while identifying which negative consequences can be substantiated by evidence.

Critical analysis of sources is essential to the study of the cities of the Bukhara Emirate. Military reports, statistical descriptions, and administrative correspondence prepared by representatives of the Russian Empire provide information about the region's political and economic conditions. However, these documents may also reflect the aims, classifications, and interests of the imperial administration. They should therefore be compared with local historical works, trade documents, and other sources.

Turkestanskii sbornik is a major collection containing numerous newspaper materials, articles, and books about Central Asia published in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Its contents may be useful for studying perspectives on the region's political, economic, and cultural history [6]. Nevertheless, the author, publication date, source of information, and political position of each individual item must be assessed separately.

Works by local historians make it possible to examine alternative perspectives on political events, local administration, and social life. U. Xudoyberdiyev's source study of Eastern Bukhara demonstrates the importance of identifying and analyzing local written sources [5]. When compared with Russian administrative documents, these sources can help establish how events were represented from different perspectives.

The article's **claim to scholarly novelty** lies in examining the consequences of the Russian Empire's conquest not only as a series of military and political events, but also as a systematic problem connected with the economic and cultural life of cities in the southern territories. In particular, it proposes a comparative regional analysis of the relationship between political dependency, external trade relations, local production, and the historical characteristics of cities.

However, fully demonstrating this scholarly novelty requires the inclusion of new evidence based on archival documents and primary sources. In particular, identifying information on trade, taxation, handicrafts, population composition, and local administration in Qarshi, Shahrisabz, and other southern cities would make it possible to substantiate the general conclusions more precisely at the regional level.

During archival research, it would be appropriate to check catalogues for documents in the National Archives of Uzbekistan, the manuscript collections of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and relevant historical collections. Documents relating to the Russian Empire's relations with Turkestan and Bukhara may also be held in Russian archives. However, it would not be academically sound to cite a specific archival document until its fond, inventory, file, and folio numbers have been identified.

Conclusion

In the second half of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century, the Russian Empire's policy toward the Bukhara Emirate significantly affected the emirate's political position, economic relations, and urban development. The military events of 1866–1868 and the subsequent relations of dependency restricted the Bukhara Emirate's independence in foreign affairs and brought its relations with the Russian Empire into a new context.

The study has reached the following conclusions.

First, political dependency restricted the Bukhara Emirate's ability to make independent decisions in international relations and increased the influence of external factors on local administration and economic development. At the same time, because the emirate's internal administrative system remained in place, its status must be distinguished from that of the Turkestan territories directly administered by the Russian Empire.

Second, the development of trade with the Russian market created new opportunities for certain production sectors, but it could also increase dependency on external demand. The growing importance of cotton cultivation and raw-material trade affected the production priorities of local economies. However, the precise scale of this process in the southern territories must be established using statistical and archival data.

Third, the arrival of industrial goods in local markets may have changed competitive conditions for certain branches of handicraft production. Rather than treating this process as a general decline, it is more scientifically sound to study it by individual products, occupations, and cities.

Fourth, the development of transport and trade links strengthened the integration of local markets into external economic relations. At the same time, the routes and economic functions of transport infrastructure were connected with the Russian Empire's military-strategic and economic interests.

Fifth, a comparative study of Qarshi, Shahrisabz, Kitab, G'uzor, Boysun, Sherobod, and Denov offers an important opportunity to identify the impact of political dependency on local society. The geographical and economic location of each city, its trade routes, craft traditions, and administrative status must be taken into account.

Sixth, a comprehensive account of the social and cultural consequences of the conquest requires comparing local historical works, archival documents, statistical data, waqf documents, and periodical materials. Such an approach would clarify the impact of political dependency on the livelihoods, occupations, and cultural institutions of urban residents.

Overall, the negative consequences of the Russian Empire's conquest for the cities of the Bukhara Emirate can be explained in terms of restricted political sovereignty, the increasing alignment of economic relations with imperial interests, and the growing dependence of local economies on external market factors. At the same time, the precise local manifestations of these processes must be investigated through primary sources. Deepening comparative research on the cities of the southern

territories would enrich the history of the Bukhara Emirate in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with new evidence.

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